

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 ICA-11  
SOE-02 DOE-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 TRSY-02 EA-10 /061 W  
-----013368 040144Z /61

R 040053Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1037

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 14380

USOECD

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, US, UR, FR

SUBJ: U.S. STRETCH ORM PRESS TO USSR - IL 1081

(CYRIL BATH CASE)

REF: A) COCOM DOC. (78) 108, B) STATE 97974

1. AT MAY 2 COCOM MEETING BOTH BELGIAN AND NETHERLANDS  
DEL ADOPTED WHAT ARE IN EFFECT POSITIONS OF OPEN-MINDED  
ON THIS EXCEPTION REQUEST. BELGIAN DEL STATED IT COULD  
NEITHER APPROVE NOR OBJECT TO THE CASE. ACCORDING TO  
BELGIAN AUTHORITIES, TO APPROVE CASE WOULD BE EQUIVA-  
LENT TO ACCEPTING THE IMPLICATION BY THE U.S. THAT  
FRANCE DOES NOT RESPECT ITS OBLIGATIONS TOWARD THE COM-  
MITTEE. BELGIAN DEL NOTED THAT FRANCE HAD DENIED THIS  
IMPLICATION AND THE COMMITTEE IS NOT A COURT. NOT TO  
ACCEPT THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF A MEMBER COUNTRY WOULD  
CONSTITUTE AN ATTACK ON THE MORAL SOVEREIGNTY OF THAT  
COUNTRY. AT THE SAME TIME, THE BELGIAN AUTHORITIES CAN  
NOT OBJECT TO THE CASE SINCE THERE IS NOT STRATEGIC REA-  
SON TO OPPOSE THE EXPORT OF THIS EQUIPMENT WHICH HAS  
BEEN, IN THEIR OPINION, OUTDATED FOR A LONGTIME. BEL-  
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GIAN DEL ADMITTED THIS WAS EQUIVALENT TO BEING DED  
OPEN-MINDED.

2. NETHERLANDS DEL SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD  
FIND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO APPROVE REQUEST WHEN THE  
SUBMITTING DELEGATION HAS FORMULATED SO MANY RESERVATIONS  
ABOUT THE STRATEGIC CHARACTER AND FINAL USE OF THE  
EQUIPMENT. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY FEEL

THAT IT WOULD NOT BE REASONABLE TO PREVENT A UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT ON THIS CASE AND FOR THIS REASON, THE NETHERLANDS DEL HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO APPROVE THE REQUEST AND AT THE SAME TIME NOT TO OPPOSE A UNANIMOUS POSITION (I.E., TO BE OPEN-MINDED).

3. FRENCH DEL MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO USDEL STATEMENT MADE ON APRIL 18 PURSUANT TO REF B (COCOM DOC (78) 108.4):

"A. THE AMERICAN PRESS HAS SEVERAL SPECIFIC DEVICES DESIGNED FOR MAKING "STRESSKIN" PANELS. THE FACT THAT IT HAS A JAW OPENING OF 15 MM ALLOWS IT TO FORM THICK PANELS SINCE THOSE PANELS HAVE THEIR EDGES FLATTEN OUT BEFORE BEING INTRODUCED INTO THE JAWS. THE DEVICE WHICH IS INDISPENSABLE FOR THE FORMING OF THE STRESSKIN PANELS IS THE HELICOIDAL RAMP WHICH PERMITS THE PRODUCTION CONICAL FORMS BY RESTRICTING THE LENGHTENING OF THE PANELS WITHIN THE VERY SMALL LIMITS ALLOWABLE.

B. THE FRENCH PRESSES, WHICH DO NOT HAVE SUCH DEVICES, ARE FOR GENERAL USAGE AND THE FACT THAT THEY CAN POSSESS A HYDRAULIC BRIDGE (PORTIQUE) DOES NOT GIVE THEM ANY SPECIFICITY WITH REGARD TO THEIR USE.

C. AN EXAMINATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PRESSES  
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FURNISHED BY THE U.S. DEL (PAGE 22 OF THE ACB-LOIRE CATALOG PROVIDED USDEL) SHOWS WITHOUT QUESTION THAT THE PRESSES ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE SOLD BY FRANCE TO AN AMERICAN AERONAUTICAL COMPANY AS WELL AS FROM THE ONE IT PLANS TO EXPORT TO THE USSR.

D. THE DESIGNS TRANSMITTED BY THE RUSSIAN PURCHASING AGENCY TO THE AMERICAN FIRM (ALSO DISTRIBUTED BY USDEL ON APRIL 18) OBVIOUSLY ARE INTENDED TO CLARIFY THE OBJECTIVE OF THE TRANSACTION BUT THE MODELS PRESENTED ARE EASILY PRODUCED BY THE PRESSES WITH BENDABLE JAWS SIMILAR TO THE AMERICAN PRESS."

4. FRENCH DEL ALSO ASKED THE FOLLOWING RESERVE QUES-

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 ICA-11  
SOE-02 DOE-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 TRSY-02 EA-10 /061 W  
-----013210 040144Z /61

R 040053Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1038

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 14380

USOECD/EXCON

TION:

"DOES THE U.S. PRESS HAVE ANY INFRA-RED DEVICE  
FOR HEATING THE PLATES?"

5. REFERRING TO THE FRENCH STATEMENT IN PARA 3B  
ABOVE, USDEL ASKED IF THIS MEANT THIS MEANT THAT THE  
FRENCH PRESSES HAVE HYDRAULIC BRIDGES. FRENCH DEL RES-  
PONDED THAT HYDRAULIC BRIDGES COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE  
FRENCH PRESSES BUT THAT THIS OPTION DOES NOT INVOLVE  
ANY SPECIFICITY WITH REGARD TO THE ULTIMATE UTILIZATION.

6. USDEL THANKED THE FRENCH DEL EXPLAINING THAT THE  
PHOTOGRAPH DISTRIBUTED BY USDEL DID REPRESENT THE  
FRENCH PRESSES IN QUESTION. HE NOTED THAT AS A RESULT  
THE COMMITTEE NOW KNOWS WHAT THE FRENCH PRESSES DO NOT  
LOOK LIKE BUT STILL DOES NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE. USDEL  
SAID ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE FRENCH PRESSES WOULD AL-  
LOW THE U.S. AUTHORITIES AS WELL AS THE OTHER MEMBERS OF  
THE COMMITTEE TO KNOW WHETHER THESE PRESSES PROVIDE THE  
SAME CAPABILITIES AS THE AMERICAN PRESS.  
FRENCH DEL RESPONDED THAT, WITH REGARD TO FURNISHING  
TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON THE FRENCH PRESSES, HIS DELE-  
GATION HAD ALREADY STATED ITS POSITION (I.E., SINCE  
FRENCH EQUIPMENT UNEMBARGOED AND NOT INVOLVED IN EXCEP-  
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TION REQUEST THERE WAS NO NEED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL IN-  
FORMATION ON THEM).

7. GERMANY, UK AND JAPAN RESERVED THEIR POSITION. USDEL  
GAVE ONE WEEK UNTIL MAY 9 FOR STATEMENT OF THEIR POSI-

TIONS.

8. USDEL COMMENT: IN REQUEST TO INQUIRY BY USDEL, GERMAN DEL SAID BILATERALLY THAT HE THOUGHT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD ULTIMATELY APPROVE THIS U.S. CASE. AS INDICATED PARIS 13923, UK OFFICIALS INDICATED THEY WOULD ALSO PROBABLY BE ABLE TO APPROVE CASE. IF BOTH GERMANY AND UK APPROVE CASE USDEL BELIEVES JAPAN WILL EITHER APPROVE, OR MORE LIKELY, ADOPT OPEN-MINDED POSITION. THIS WOULD LEAVE ONLY FRANCE WITHOUT FINAL POSITION AND IN USDEL'S VIEW IT IS LIKELY IT WOULD ALSO ADOPT AN OPEN-MINDED POSITION ON EXPORT WHILE REPEATING THAT IT HAD REFUSED TO ALLOW EXPORT OF SIMILAR PRESS FROM FRANCE. IN ANY CASE, IT IS CLEAR THAT FRANCE DOES NOT INTEND TO PROVIDE ANY MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ITS PRESSES TO COMMITTEE.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING TO FRENCH QUESTION PARA 5 ABOVE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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